

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 2017

Ambassador Girma Birru Geda
Attn: Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn
3506 International Dr., NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn,

We write to express concern regarding your recent decision to suspend all intercountry adoptions from Ethiopia. We would like to work with you to ensure that orphans in Ethiopia have the opportunity to find safe, loving, and permanent homes. The United States' relationship with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is founded upon economic growth, development, regional peace, and security. The United States and Ethiopia work together to enhance food security, improve health services, strengthen education, promote trade, and expand development. We have welcomed Ethiopia's commitment to security in the region, including through peacekeeping missions in Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan.

In this spirit of cooperation, we request that you reconsider your April 21 decision to immediately halt all adoption processing, including cases in which the adoption was completed in the Federal First Instance Court. Your government's decision to suspend international adoptions on April 21, 2017, has left more than 200 U.S. families, and as many Ethiopian children, in a difficult and heartbreaking position. While we respect your government's decisions regarding future adoption policy in Ethiopia, we ask for your help in resolving expeditiously cases that were already underway on April 21. We are concerned that a failure to work with us to help these children join their adoptive families could have a negative impact on the relationship between our two governments.

The cases of approximately 30 children and their families stand out as particularly troubling. These children's adoptions were completed in the Federal First Instance Court, and the adoptive parents are legally responsible for the children's well-being under your country's laws. However, they have been unable to obtain the necessary paperwork so that the children can travel home to the United States to join their families. We do not believe the adoptive parents have received from your government legal justification for these delays, which have detrimental effects on the children, many of whom have had to return to orphanages.

We share your government's concern for the security and welfare of all children, and that is why we ask for your help in resolving this situation without delay. In many cases, children and families have already initiated the emotional bonding and attachment process. We fear breaking these attachments by delaying these adoptions may be detrimental to the children and adoptive families involved. Our constituents want to provide loving, safe families to those in need and


simply wish to bring their adopted children home in a timely fashion and in accordance with the law.

For these reasons, we ask you and your government to work with us and the U.S. Department of State to resolve this situation without delay. Once again, we respect your government's right to make decisions regarding future policy on international adoptions. However, for cases already underway on April 21, we ask your government to help these children join their adoptive parents by allowing their adoption cases to continue moving forward.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with the Ethiopian Government to unite American families with the children they have legally adopted.

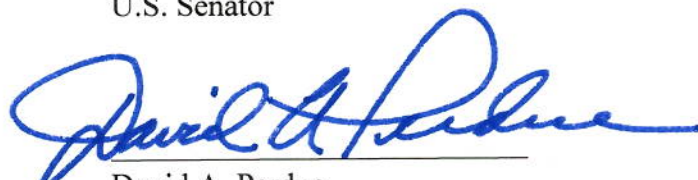
Sincerely,

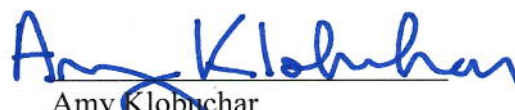

Todd Young
U.S. Senator

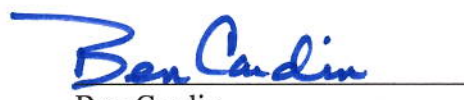

Roy Blunt
U.S. Senator


Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senator



Richard Burr
U.S. Senator


David A. Perdue
U.S. Senator

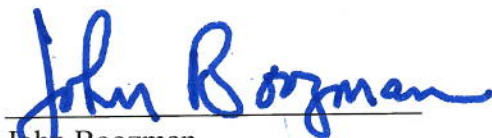

Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator


Ben Cardin
U.S. Senator


Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator


Christopher A. Coons
U.S. Senator

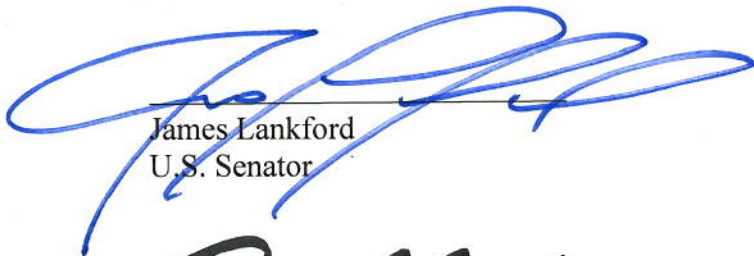

Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator



John Boozman
U.S. Senator



Luther Strange
U.S. Senator



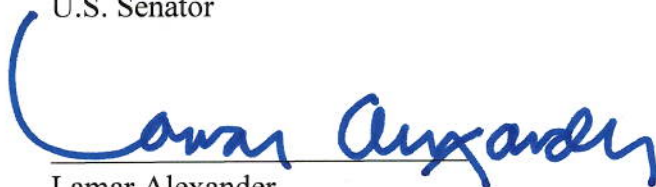
James Lankford
U.S. Senator



Thad Cochran
U.S. Senator



Jerry Moran
U.S. Senator



Lamar Alexander
U.S. Senator




Lindsey Graham
U.S. Senator



Rand Paul, M.D.
U.S. Senator



Al Franken
U.S. Senator



Joe Donnelly
U.S. Senator



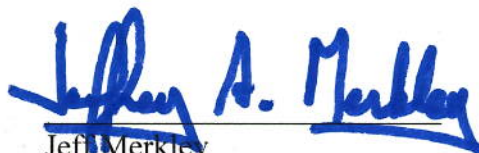
Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator



Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator



Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senator



Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senator



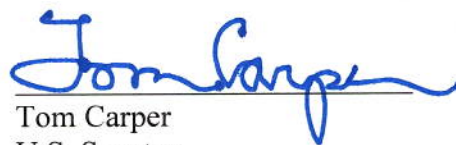
Heidi Heitkamp
U.S. Senator



Gary Peters
U.S. Senator



Johnny Isakson
U.S. Senator



Tom Carper
U.S. Senator



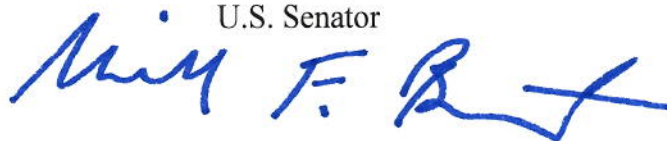
Tom Cotton
U.S. Senator



Ed Markey
U.S. Senator




Ted Cruz
U.S. Senator



Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator



Steve Daines
U.S. Senator



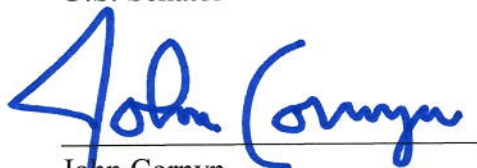
Claire McCaskill
U.S. Senator



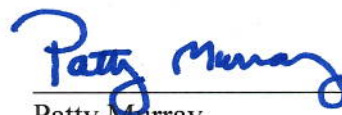
Thom Tillis
U.S. Senator



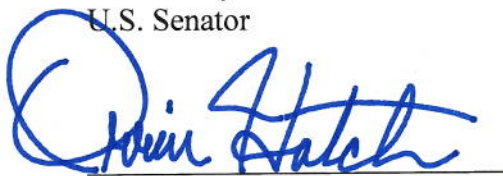
Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator



John Cornyn
U.S. Senator



Patty Murray
U.S. Senator



Orrin Hatch
U.S. Senator



Chris Van Hollen
U.S. Senator

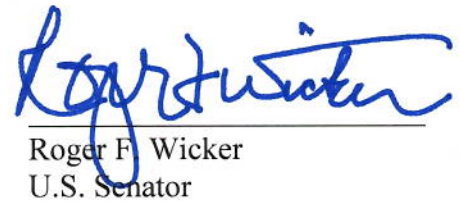


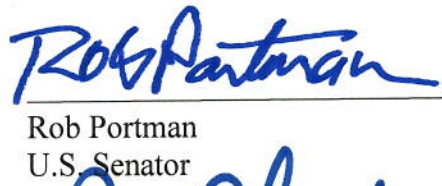
Tim Scott
U.S. Senator

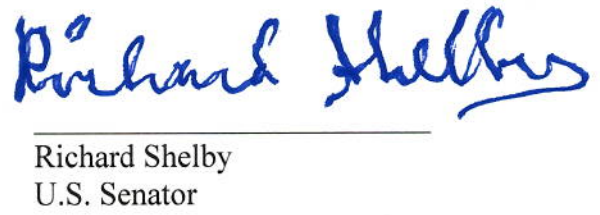


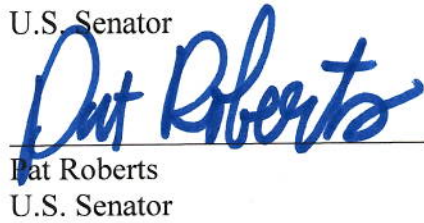
Robert Menendez
U.S. Senator


Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senator


Roger F. Wicker
U.S. Senator

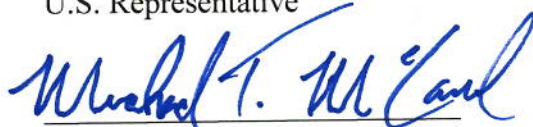

Rob Portman
U.S. Senator



Richard Shelby
U.S. Senator


Pat Roberts
U.S. Senator



Trent Franks
U.S. Representative



Ed Royce
U.S. Representative

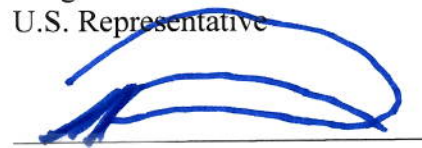

Michael T. McCaul
U.S. Representative

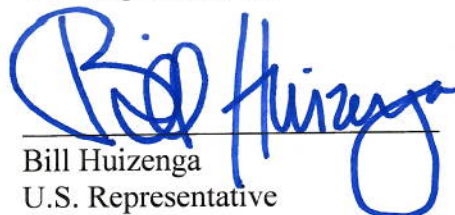

Tom Rice
U.S. Representative



Robert Pittenger
U.S. Representative



Marsha Blackburn
U.S. Representative

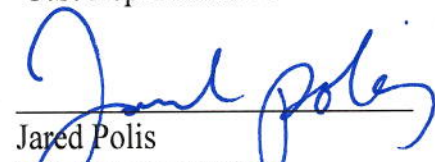

Greg Walden
U.S. Representative

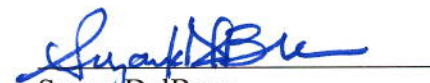

Scott DesJarlais
U.S. Representative


Bill Huizenga
U.S. Representative


Brenda L. Lawrence
U.S. Representative

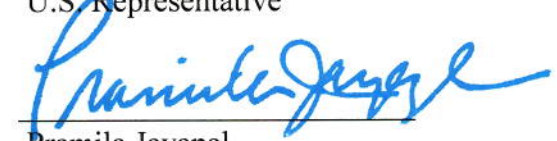

Hank Johnson
U.S. Representative


Jared Polis
U.S. Representative


Suzan DelBene
U.S. Representative


Lisa Blunt Rochester
U.S. Representative


Ron Kind
U.S. Representative



Pramila Jayapal
U.S. Representative



Ed Perlmutter
U.S. Representative

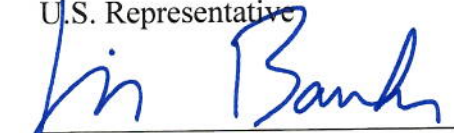

Suzanne Bonamici
U.S. Representative


Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
U.S. Representative


Mark Meadows
U.S. Representative

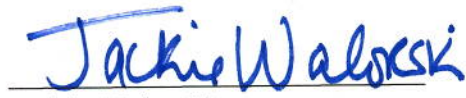

Kevin Cramer
U.S. Representative



Robert Latta
U.S. Representative

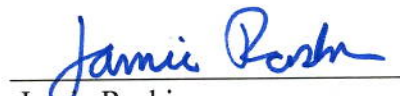

Jim Banks
U.S. Representative


Walter Jones
U.S. Representative

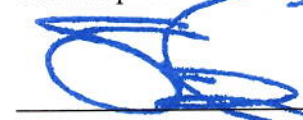

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
U.S. Representative



Jackie Walorski
U.S. Representative

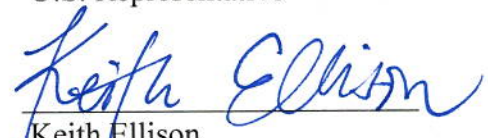

Bruce Westerman
U.S. Representative

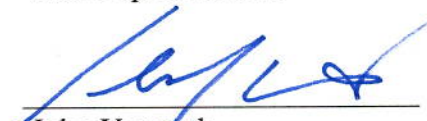

Jamie Raskin
U.S. Representative



John Garamendi
U.S. Representative

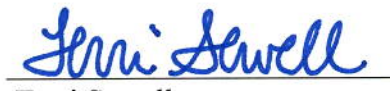

Sean Patrick Maloney
U.S. Representative



Steve Cohen
U.S. Representative


Keith Ellison
U.S. Representative


John Yarmuth
U.S. Representative



Brendan F. Boyle
U.S. Representative

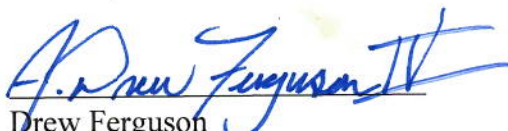

Terri Sewell
U.S. Representative


Mike D. Rogers
U.S. Representative




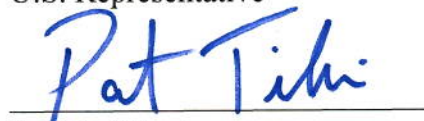
Thomas Massie
U.S. Representative

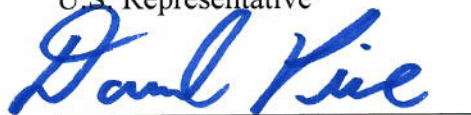

David Kustoff
U.S. Representative


Drew Ferguson
U.S. Representative


Pete Sessions
U.S. Representative

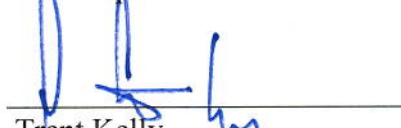

Mo Brooks
U.S. Representative


Patrick Tiberi
U.S. Representative



David E. Price
U.S. Representative

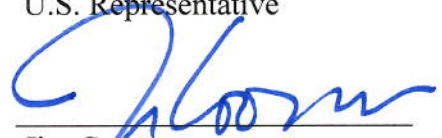

Billy Long
U.S. Representative

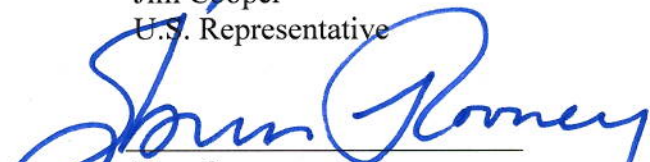

Robert Aderholt
U.S. Representative



Trent Kelly
U.S. Representative



Mark Walker
U.S. Representative



Gary Palmer
U.S. Representative


Jim Cooper
U.S. Representative


Tom Rooney
U.S. Representative

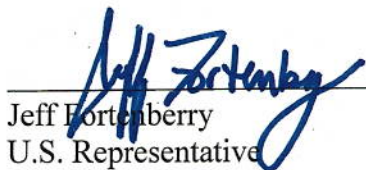

David P. Roe, M.D.
U.S. Representative


Ann Wagner
U.S. Representative


Mike Thompson
U.S. Representative



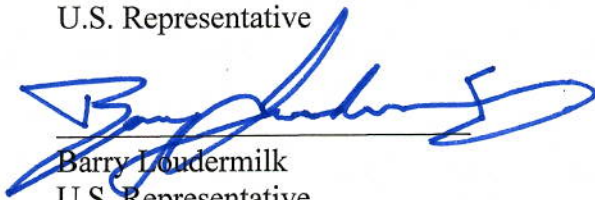
Doug Lamborn
U.S. Representative



Jeff Fortenberry
U.S. Representative



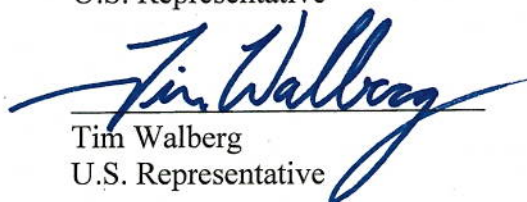
Susan W. Brooks
U.S. Representative



Barry Loudermilk
U.S. Representative



French Hill
U.S. Representative



Tim Walberg
U.S. Representative



Bill Johnson
U.S. Representative



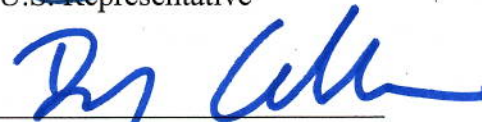
Justin Amash
U.S. Representative



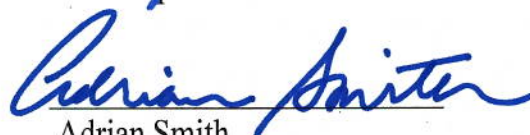
Luke Messer
U.S. Representative



Andre Carson
U.S. Representative



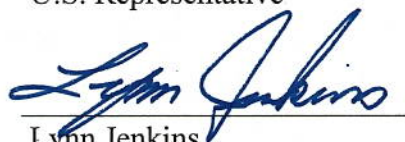
Doug Collins
U.S. Representative



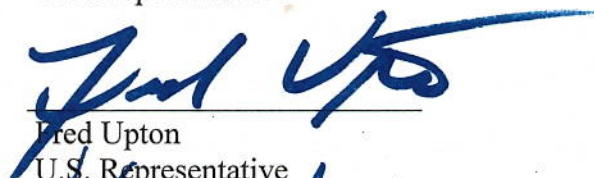
Adrian Smith
U.S. Representative



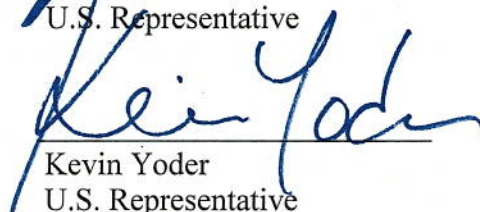
John Garamendi
U.S. Representative



Lynn Jenkins
U.S. Representative



Fred Upton
U.S. Representative



Kevin Yoder
U.S. Representative



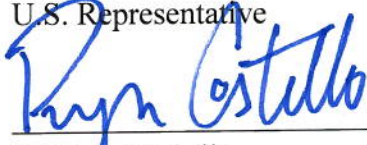
Jody Hice
U.S. Representative



James Comer
U.S. Representative



Steve Womack
U.S. Representative



Ryan A. Costello
U.S. Representative



Anthony Brown
U.S. Representative